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Chief, FBIB

23 April 1948

Acting Chief, FBIB

FBIB Monitoring of BBC Broadcasts

1. FBIB effort devoted to monitoring of BBC broadcasts is illustrated in the following table:

	<u>Hours of Broadcast Monitored Daily</u>	<u>Words of Textual Material Processed</u>	<u>Man Hours Required</u>
West Coast	1 2/2	0	1
East Coast	5 3/4	2500	20
Mediterranean	1 1/4	200	5
Hawaiian	<u>3/4</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	8 1/4	2800	28

2. West Coast monitoring is of BBC Russian, which is transmitted in summary form to IBD for last-minute check against the script of the next VOUSA Russian broadcast. As indicated in a previous memorandum, IBC believes that an exchange of scripts would not be of value. FBIB does not find it burdensome to satisfy the IBD requirement for this coverage.

3. 75% of East Coast monitoring is in the nature of a general foreign news service, and a result of the extraordinary speed with which BBC gets news on the air. For example, our first information of the Bogota revolution came in a BBC newscast. The morning "Summary of Significant Broadcasts" will attribute a heavy proportion of items to BBC as source, although by the time the "pink sheet" is issued, covering much the same material, information will have been received from primary sources. The BBC flashes are used to tip off the field camera developments, to alert report editors to save space for late items and to keep IBD informed of the latest foreign news. It is desired to continue this coverage.

4. The remaining 25% of East Coast monitoring, together with that in Mediterranean, provides coverage of British domestic news and opinion and attitude toward international issues. It is used primarily in the two-page British Section of the Daily Report. User offices recognize that this Section provides no genuine intelligence information, but value it as current background material and would regret its loss. It is recommended that this coverage be continued to the extent that it does not interfere with monitoring of more important

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sources of intelligence. Copies of BBC scripts would serve this purpose only if screened, condensed, edited and filed by teletype. This editorial burden on the London staff would duplicate the operation performed in any case at East Coast Bureau for news service purposes.

5. Hawaiian monitoring of BBC relays through Singapore and Delhi may be of some value to Hawaii Bureau as a general foreign news service. Textual material filed to Washington is of no consequence and might be discontinued without loss.

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